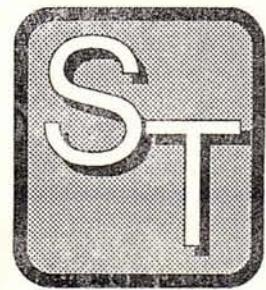




EXCHANGE

Newsletter of the
FRESNO ST USERS GROUP



Vol. 2, Num. 8

August 1987

Front Page

Opening Message

As though of you who attended last months meeting know, Frank Fleisig has decided to step down as the user group president. Frank's increasing obligations at work have not left him with enough free time to effectively continue as president. I for one would like to thank Frank for all the time and effort he has spent during the last year as club president and am sure all the other members feel the same.

Now, on to the future. At the last meeting it was decided that the executive board would get together and elect a temporary president to fill in until regular elections could be held. At the executive meeting the members attending decided to let the executive board run the group jointly until an official election can be held.

Mark Munoz also notified the executive board that he will have to give up being the club disk librarian since he will be attending night classes this year and will not be able to come to the regular meetings. Mark will still try and help out as much as possible to get the disks ready but will not be at the meetings. Mike King has been temporarily appointed as the new disk librarian. He will bring the disks to the meetings and demonstrate the new software collected since the last meeting. I'm sure Mike will do a fine job.

To add to the changes this month will be a change in meeting locations. This months meeting, and all for the foreseeable future, will be held at the Breuner's store near the corner of Cedar and Shaw. Since the store closes at 9:00 PM we will have to move the starting time for the meetings up to 7:00 PM sharp. The meeting has to begin breaking up by 8:30 and we must be out before 9:00.

This months meeting promises to be an exciting one. We will be having a demonstrations of PC Ditto, the new IBM emulator for the ST, and the new Cad 3-D 2.0 with the Stereo Tech glasses. We will also be continuing with our game demo's from last month along with our usual Public Domain Disk of the Month and an open forum where we will try and answer some of your questions.

See you at the meeting!

Greg Pyles



From the Editor's Desk:

This has really been a busy month! I'm afraid the newsletter may have suffered a little since I have had to take over a few of Frank's old duties but hopefully this will correct itself after the next elections. I am still looking for any aspiring writers out there who may want the chance to contribute to the newsletter. This is a good space for someone with a little ambition to share their views and opinions on the state of the home computer industry, or just to let the rest of us know exactly what you use your computer for. If you need something to write about just give me a call and I'll be glad to offer a few suggestions.

Greg Pyles 224-2931



NEXT MEETING

Thursday August 27

7:00 P.M.

Breuners Furniture

corner of

Cedar and Shaw



ST CLUB OFFICERS

President	Frank Fleisig	435-1184
Vice President	Mark Munoz	225-0389
Treasurer	John Damiano	674-4956
Disk Librarian	Mike Thomas	-----
Editor	Greg Pyles 221-1980	
Sysop	Matt West 292-6470	
Board Member	Danny Shamoon	298-0745
Board Member	Mike Escobar	291-9581

The Fresno ST Users Group is an independent, non-profit club with no connections with Atari, Inc. Membership dues are \$24 a year. Membership includes access to the public domain disk library, a subscription to the monthly newsletter, free use of the club book library, free access to the club BBS, and classes when held. Permission to reprint articles in any non-commercial publication is permitted without written authorization, provided that proper credit is given to the Fresno ST Users Group and the author. Opinions expressed within this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Fresno ST Users Group.

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P H O N E
292-1777

Submit camera ready copy to:

Fresno ST Newsletter
P.O. Box 3708
Pinedale, Ca. 93650

By the second Saturday of the month



MIKEY'S COLUMN

Game Review: High Roller Mandscape \$49.95

For those of you who thought F-15 Strike Eagle by MircoProse was a blast, High Roller by Mandscape is sure to be an exciting and enjoyable peice of software. F-15 Strike Eagle and High Roller are very similar in the way of the instrument panel and enemy bombing, so those of you who are familiar with the flight and fighting in F-15 Strike Eagle should become quickly orientated with High Roller. Those of you who are not familiar with F-15 Strike Eagle (muchless High Roller) are in for much fun and excitement as you learn to dodge Surface-to-Air (SAM) and Air-to-Air ssles (AAM).

The story line is this (what would a good Fighter-jet game without a good story line to get the player motivated!?): A group of saboteurs have infiltrated a United States Marine Base in North Africa and have destroyed an entire squadron of Harrier jet-fighters, know as the "High-Roller" squadron, named so because of the pilot's willingness to take risks in their aircraft in order to carry out a successful mission. The saboteurs, however, have overlooked a hangar in which a sole Harrier jet-fighter rests. Unlike the other fighters, which were destroyed by the saboteurs, the Harrier has recently been equiped with a top-secret, experimental tracking device called FOFTRAC (abreviated, meaning "Friend Or Foe Tracking Radar")... and guess who gets to fly it and get revenge of the saboteurs... YOU!! Only 500 miles away in a neighboring country which is sympathetic to terrorism (in North Africa, I wonder which country that could be..) lies your target of the enemy headquarters. Your mission: Destroy it! Simple..? NO! First, you must master the skill of avoiding and dodging missles plus you must also master VIFFing (Vector in forward flight) techniques.

For those of you not familiar with the Harrier (which does exsist in real life), this aircraft is capable of leaving the ground much like a helicopter would straight up) and then leaving the hovering position it

s taken and flying away as a normal jet-fighter would leave the ground (but without the long runway always neccessary with most jet-fighters). Upon

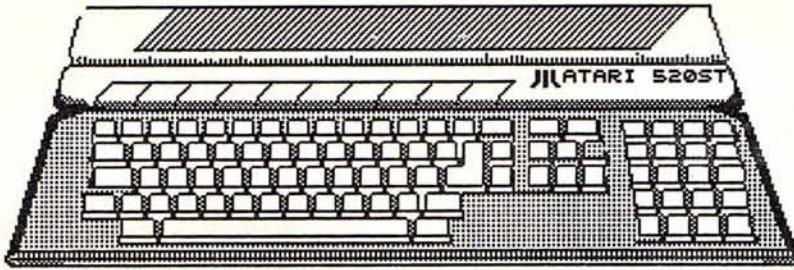
leaving the ground, your Harrier has been eqiped (armed) with 2 Sidewinder AIM-9L Air-to-Air missles (each having a 5 mile range), 3 - 1000 lb bombs and 250 rounds of cannon shell having a 2-mile range. The radar on board is also fairly extensive: Air Attack Radar (AAR) indicates the position of enemy aircraft and Friend or Foe Tracking Radar (FOFTRAC-the experimental radar). The FOTRAC is both a map and an updating target display of your area of operation and is approximately 24 miles by 12 miles. The FOFTRAC shows, by icon of picture, mountains, your track, SAM sites, tanks and enemy aircraft and missles. I might also add that your Harrier is equiped with a Radar Warning Receiver (RWR) which will warn you of enemy radar and an automatic Electronic Counter-Measures (ECM) which will attempt to break the enemy radar fix.

Flight in the Harrier is a pleasure. Flight is very easy and smooth (excpet when being shot at). High Roller is also faster than F-15 Strike Eagle which is an added plus for High Roller. The on-screen cockpit Heads-Up Display (HUD) includes Verticle Speed Indicator (VSI), Air Spped Indicator (ASI), compass, sight, altitude, and pitch. The FOFTRAC Map/Radar is also on-screen at all times as is the landing site indicator, fuel indicator, thrust vector, thrust level, undercarriage indicator, brake indicator, flap indicator, damage indicator, message screen and Air Attack Radar (AAR). With the aircraft being easy to fly, I found it harder to shoot down enemy aircraft, however ground targets are fairly simply to bomb as the program virtually does that for you by locking the target in.

Overall, I was very impressed with Mandscape's High Roller. The instructions were easy to read and complete and a quick reference card was also packaged which came in handy at times!. A joystick is not neccessary to fly the Harrier, although I would recommend using a joystick. Flares, banking, flaps, rudders, nose, thrust vector, power, gear, etc., can all be controlled by keyboard. I have seen High Roller at Tasco Software Review, Federated, Software Etc., and Boot's Camera for the ST so pick it up soon. Since, by reading this review, you already know pretty much what you need to know about the game, you'll be all set to fly with the aces!! Mikey likes it!

Mike Thomas





REGENT WORD II

I have finally found a word processing program that I feel is better all around than ST Writer. While in Santa Clara at the World of Atari computer show in June, I saw this program demonstrated at a booth in front of a software display while looking for a different word processor, and while I felt initially that Word Writer ST might be a better choice, then upon the scene came a Mr. Frank Cohen who began to show my wife and I what this program could really do. (Frank Cohen and his partner are co-owners of Regent Software, and his partner is a well known programmer who has developed a number of word processing programs for Atari computers including this upgrade of a previous program.)

First of all this is a GEM based program with all of the essential commands at the top of the document in a very easy to use Menu Bar which includes the commands File, Edit, Search, Rulers, Style, Special, Print, and Spell, and by moving the mouse pointer into a menu bar category one automatically displays a window of selections. The top line of the currently open window is called the INFORMATION LINE as it displays information about the performance of a form or program.

When one moves the mouse on top of the File subject a drop down menu appears with the following options, Load Document, Save Document, New Document, and Quit. When one then moves the mouse to the Edit subject the following appears: Center line, Block right, Delete line, and Insert line, and below this appears Start Block, End Block, and Paste Block. Next under the Search subject appears Define Search Phrase, Define Replace Phrase, Find Next, Replace Next, and Replace all. Next comes Rulers under which one finds Margins, Page #, Spacing, and Font, along with Page Break, Justification, Header Definition, Footer Definition, and Delete a Ruler. These Rulers can be inserted anywhere in the document to change the above parameters, even after each line if needed, or they can be deleted, and one does not have to bother with reformatting the document or paragraph as is necessary with some other GEM based ST Word processors.

Under Style comes the choices Bold, Italics, Subscript, Superscript, Underline and Insert Mode and all of the above mentioned choices can be toggled on or off. Under the category Special comes Help, Calculator, Go to Line, Alphabetize, Show Returns, Show Page Breaks, and Word Count which an accurate way to keep tabs on the number of words in your document. Under the Print heading appears, Print Document, Global Format, and Printer Type,

which has a selection of printer drivers for most of the common printers used, or one can make their own custom printer driver if necessary. Under the category Spell comes Check document, and the spell checking dictionary contains about 32,000 words initially and is expandable to approximately 100,000 words.

The Function keys at the top of the keyboard can also be used to give some of the commands, and there is instant help available at all times simply by pressing the Help key.

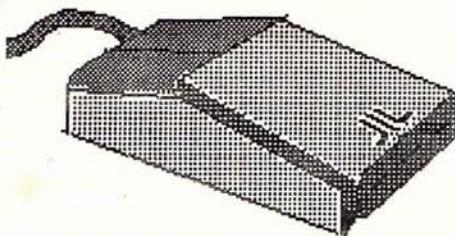
The documentation that comes with this program is contained in a relatively short 54 page booklet that is very easy to read and follow, but actually one can run this program pretty easily from the GEM Desktop without a lot of information from the booklet after a little practice.

One of the best things about this program is the fact that Regent Software seemed very willing to support this program with their European version, which my wife finds very helpful, since she is majoring in French at CSUF, and plans to teach French in the future. Frank Cohen promised to send us the European version if we would send him two disks, and a self-addressed envelope, and they finally arrived about 10 days before this review was written. Along with that program came a disk which contained a Keyboard Edit Program which allows one to place multiple foreign characters on the keyboard when typing in French or German, and actually some other languages which are not familiar to me. After one sets up and runs the proper Keyboard Edit program, and boots the European version of Regent Word II, one can then use the previously selected special keys on the keyboard to type in the proper foreign language characters in most instances, but I must admit that there are a few minor bugs in the Keyboard Edit program, but one is able to make a program that works fairly well from it. Then all one has to do is to set your printer dip switches to the proper foreign language settings as suggested from the printer manual to properly print out the foreign characters in that language.

I can't really conclude this review without Help Menu which is available by simply pressing the

Help key. This menu has in compressed form practically all of the commands needed to run this program properly.

All one has to do to execute most commands is to hold down the Control key and



hit another key such as T to get to the top of the document, and B to get to the bottom, and many other selections can be used to go anywhere on the document and execute almost any command instantly.

In summary, I find this to be an excellent word processing program, and I suppose that I will give up ST Writer in the future in favor of this one, because of it's user friendly, simple to use features. The current mail order price for this program is 67 dollars, and I for one feel that it is well worth the investment to add this fine program to one's collection of ST word processing programs.

Mike Escobar

ROAD RUNNER U.S. Gold Ltd.

GAUNTLET U.S. Gold Ltd.

BARBARIAN Psygnosis

It seems that most of the newest and best programs for the ST are coming from overseas. At least that is the case for these three new games. Two of the three games are direct arcade port overs. Gauntlet and Road Runner were very big successes in the arcade and it looks as though they will be as big a hit on the home computer circuit.

Gauntlet features excellent graphics and great game play. It lacks the voices and the four player mode that its Coin-op version has. In Gauntlet your objective is mainly to stay alive as long as you can and to gather treasure. As far as I can tell there are at least 100 or more levels. Each level is a little harder and more complex than the last. Although the game gets repetitious after long periods of play, it is still allot of fun especially with two players.

The next arcade conversion is more like a cartoon on your ST. In Road Runner you have the old adversaries Wile E. Coyote (Ravenous appetitus) and the Road Runner (Beep-beep zip-bang). You play the part of the Road Runner and try to outwit the Coyote as chases you through several different screens. This game is very easy to control and should be fun for younger children as well as the adult game player.

The last of these new games is Barbarian. This is one of the hottest games around right now. It has excellent graphics, sound and animation. The game follows the old hack-n-slash tradition but is very addictive. Surprises, traps and unique foes are plentiful on every screen. This game is from the company that brought you Brataccas and Deep Space. Like Brataccas you use the mouse to control most of your actions but they have made the game considerably easier to play by adding icons to the screen to help you select your actions. You can also use the keyboard for most commands if you prefer.

Overall there seems to be an improving trend in the software that we are receiving for the ST. We can expect to see even more great games for the ST in the future.

Matt Peacher & Greg Pyles

PC Ditto

Avante-Garde Systems \$99.95

It seems like the Atari ST is turning out to be a very versatile computer. What with the Magic Sac for running Macintosh software and a couple of shareware programs for running Atari 8 bit and C-64 programs. Now to add to the list is PC Ditto from Avante-Garde Systems. This program will allow you to run almost all IBM XT software on a standard Atari ST computer!

Since the IBM is mainly used as a business machine this will help those of us who want to use the ST for business purposes the most. The main problem that many users will have is getting IBM software on 3 1/2 disks. Even though IBM's newest computers use the 3 1/2 disk format it is still not nearly as popular as the 5 1/4 disks. To solve this problem several companies have begun to sell IBM type 5 1/4 disk drives for the ST. You can just hook up this drive as drive B and copy all of your IBM software to 3 1/2 disks or you can leave them on the 5 1/4 disks and run them right out of the box.

If all this sounds to good to be true, it is. Since PC Ditto is a totally software based emulator it is going to run considerably slower than a true hardware emulator would. The documentation states that it runs at about 80% the speed of a standard IBM XT. This may be the case in some programs but for the most part from what I have been able to try and from what I have read on Genie and Compuserve it seems that the more reliable speed estimate is around 30% the speed of an IBM XT.

Now don't let this totally scare you away. I have tried Dbase III+ and a couple of word processors and they seem to run about as fast a similar programs for the ST. Anything that uses any graphics at all though really slow it down. We tried several games from the IBM on PC Ditto and most of them were so slow they were unusable. On the plus side is the fact that just about every program I tried seems to run properly. There also seems to be allot of support available from users on Genie and the author is also available on Genie to provide updates and answer questions.

As of now PC Ditto will not run with the monochrome monitor but it will be updated very shortly and this will be one of the features that will be added.

Overall I would say that for the first version of a new program it works very well and if the author continues to provide additional features (mouse support, monochrome monitor, speed increase?) then you can look forward to running some IBM programs on your ST Computer!

Greg Pyles

PC Disk

20.950 - \$19.950

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LIBRARY NOTES

The group has created a book library for the use of our members. These books will be available to be checked out at the meetings or they can be picked up at the Software Review (that's where I work). You can only keep the books for a week at a time in order to give everyone a chance to see them. There is no charge for the use of the books so be sure to check it out at the next meeting.

The Disk of the Month is no longer available at the store! Mark Munoz is the new Disk Librarian and will make arrangements to have the old disks at the meetings for copying. If you have any questions about the back copies of the Disk of the Month call Mark at 225-0389.

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UPCOMMING EVENTS

**Next User Group Meeting
Thursday August 27, 1987**

**Southern California Atari Show
September 19 - 20, 1987
Glendale, Ca.**

**The new meeting location is:
Breuners Furniture
Near Shaw and Cedar**